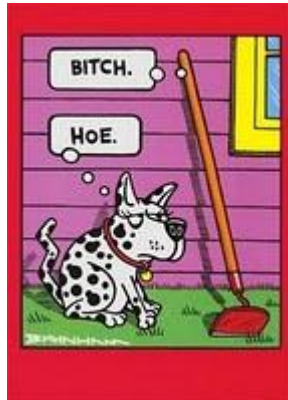




3. HOW TO AVOID SEXISM

LEARNER WORKSHEET 4 WHY AVOID SEXISM IN LANGUAGE?



Sexist language creates an image of a society where women have lower social and economic status than men. Using the non-sexist language may change the way that users think about gender roles. Working against sexist language is combating men's violence against women. It's one step. It's easier to start saying "you all" instead of "you guys" than to change the wage gap tomorrow. Nonsexist English is a resource we have at the tip of our tongues. Let's start tasting this freedom now

The notion of females being the "weaker sex," if only because women are generally physically weaker than males, is likely to be with us for a very long time. The sad thing is that physical strength is not much of an asset in a world in which being smart and educated is of critical importance for success

Some non- sexist changes so far:

1979 - hurricanes renamed alternately by female/male names: they no longer 'flirt with the coast'.

1980s - increasing pressure to ensure non-sexist usage - don't assume that an author is *he*, drop derivatives like *authoress*, *usherette*, use *chair* for *chairman* etc.

1990s - 'When ancient man developed early agriculture' becomes 'When ancient people developed agriculture' but this still hides the fact that the earliest cultivators of plants were women. So what do you think?